

REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 14-16 and 18-36 are pending in this application, with Claims 14, 18, 23 and 30 being independent. Claims 9-13, which have been withdrawn from consideration, have been cancelled. Claims 14 and 18 are amended herein. Claims 23-36 are newly added. Support for the amended and newly added claims can be found in the specification at least at page 17, lines 1 and 2 and page 13, lines 10 and 11. Of course, the claims are not intended to be limited in scope to these preferred embodiments. It is submitted that no new matter has been added by the amendments herein.

Claims 14-16 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,841,134 (Hida, et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,254,525 (Nakajima, et al.) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,786,055 (Sei, et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 23, the present invention relates to an information recording medium comprising an electronic information storing circuit part, a base material and an ink receiving layer comprising a water-soluble or hydrophilic synthetic resin, in this order, and further comprising a barrier layer for preventing ink components applied to the ink receiving layer from reaching the electronic information storing circuit part. The barrier layer is provided between the electronic information storing circuit part and the base material

Independent Claim 14 is similar to independent Claim 23, but further recites that the barrier layer has a concentration of ionic chlorine of 100 ppm or less.

As recited in independent Claim 18, the present invention relates to an information recording medium comprising an electronic information storing circuit part and an ink receiving layer comprising a water-soluble or hydrophilic synthetic resin, in this order, and further comprising a barrier layer for preventing ink components applied with an ink jet head to the ink receiving layer from reaching the electronic information storing circuit part and having a concentration of ionic chlorine of 100 ppm or less. The barrier layer is provided between the electronic information storing circuit part and the ink receiving layer.

As recited in independent Claim 20, the present invention relates to an information recording medium comprising an electronic information storing circuit part and an ink receiving layer, in this order, and further comprising a barrier layer which is a base material composed of a water-repellent material. The barrier layer is provided between the electronic information storing circuit part and the ink receiving layer so as to prevent an ink applied with an ink jet head to the ink receiving layer from reaching the electronic information storing circuit part.

Hida et al. relates to an IC card in which an IC module is embedded in a card substrate. Referring to Figure 1a, for example, IC module 4 is embedded through an adhesive layer 6 in a card substrate 3, which includes a laminate of center cores 1a, 1b and oversheets 2a, 2b. IC module 4 has a reinforcing member 5 that comprises a side portion of the IC module substrate. Between center core 1b and oversheet 2b, a reinforcing sheet layer 8 is formed. While Hida, et al. does suggest that printing can be provided on the backside of the card, the Examiner recognizes that Hida et al. does not disclose an ink receiving layer. Accordingly, Hida et al. cannot disclose or suggest an electronic information storing circuit part, a base material and an

ink receiving layer, with a barrier layer provided between the circuit part and the base material, as is recited in independent Claims 14 and 23. Nor does Hida et al. disclose or suggest an electronic information storing circuit part and an ink receiving layer, with a barrier layer provided between the circuit part and the ink receiving layer, as is recited in independent Claims 18 and 30.

Furthermore, although the Examiner suggests that in Hida et al. the component order is IC module 4-adhesive 6-reinforcing member 5-oversheet 2b, it is respectfully submitted that reinforcing member 5 is not depicted as being provided between adhesive 6 and oversheet 2b in any embodiment. Moreover, Applicants submit that in the structure of Hida et al., the substrate and adhesive layer do not completely cover the IC module and the IC module is exposed. Accordingly, one attribute of the present invention cannot be achieved by Hida et al., namely, because the IC module is exposed in Hida et al., prevention of circuit problems caused by ink cannot be achieved. In addition, since the oversheet comprises polyvinyl chloride (note column 11, line 60), which contains chlorine, circuit problems may occur even without ink jet recording.

Hida et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in the independent claims.

Nakajima et al. relates to a thermal transfer image recording material for an ID card. As understood by Applicants, the ID card of Nakajima et al. is of the sublimating thermal transfer recording type provided with a barrier layer comprising a hydrophilic binder and the like to prevent blur of colorants (note column 15, lines 23-27). Since the barrier layer in Nakajima et al. includes a hydrophilic (i.e., water-absorptive) binder such as gelatin and casein, if such were used as a barrier between an ink receiving layer and a circuit part, the barrier would absorb a

large amount of remaining ink components from an unfixed portion. Thus, such a layer would not have the barrier effect that the present invention can achieve in avoiding circuit problems caused by ink. Nakajima et al. cannot be said to disclose or suggest a barrier layer for preventing ink components applied to an ink receiving layer from reaching an electronic information storing circuit part, as is recited in dependent Claims 14, 18 and 23. Nor does Nakajima et al. disclose or suggest a barrier layer which is a base material composed of a water-repellant material, as is recited in independent Claim 30.

Furthermore, the image receiving layer in Nakajima et al. comprises a heat-resistant resin such as polyvinyl chloride resin, polyester resin, polycarbonate resin and acrylic resin (note column 11, lines 13-17). Applicants submit that these resins are not water-absorbent so that ink-jet recorded images cannot be formed thereon. Accordingly, Nakajima et al. also fails to disclose or suggest an ink receiving layer comprising a water-soluble or hydrophilic synthetic resin, as is recited in independent Claims 14, 18 and 23.

Nakajima et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Hida et al. noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Sei et al. relates to an adhesive for semiconductor devices and was cited by the Examiner for teaching removing chloride ions in order to improve electrical insulation reliability. However, Sei et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of the citations noted above with respect to the independent claims.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are requested.

Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 14, 18, 23 and 30. The dependent claims are allowable for the reasons given with respect to their respective independent claims, as well as for the patentable features recited therein. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants also respectfully request that this Amendment After Final be entered. This Amendment was not presented earlier as it was earnestly believed that the claims on file would be found allowable. Given the Examiner's familiarity with the application, Applicants believe that a full understanding and consideration of this Amendment would not require undue time or effort by the Examiner. Moreover, Applicants submit that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is believed to be appropriate and such entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the above-noted rejection, rejoinder of the withdrawn claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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